

Cowboy Good Guy

Having good manners, including expressing gratitude, is a great asset for an individual. Parents should teach their children to say “thank you” when somebody gives them a gift or a compliment or does something nice for them. If that is not done, then it is probable that ungrateful children will be reared, and they are highly unlikely to be happy. With gratitude, however, the odds go up dramatically that happiness will be the result.

Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar tells an example of the validity of gratitude in action. It is the story of Roy Rogers, king of the cowboys on the silver screen. After Rogers starred in his first movie, he began receiving huge stacks of fan mail that he wanted to answer. But his salary of \$150 a week did not even cover the required postage.

He talked to the head of Republic Pictures in the hope that the studio would handle some of his fan mail. He was summarily turned down, and told he was foolish to think about answering fan mail because nobody else did. It took too much time and money.

Roy Rogers, Ziglar says, was one of the genuinely good guys of life, and he couldn't buy that response. It was his conviction that if someone thought enough about him to write a fan letter, he should have enough respect for the person to answer it. Fortunately, the movie that caused his “problem” also made him so popular that he could go on a personal appearance tour. He traveled many miles and performed countless one-night stands to raise the money to pay the salaries of the four people it took to answer his fan mail.

As a result of answering each fan's letter, he built a fan base that was faithful to him and remained faithful to him throughout his life.

“Yup, the good guys and the good gals really do win,” Ziglar exclaims.

It is important for us to practice manners, respect others and be grateful for what we have. And we have blessings in great abundance. Good manners include thanking God for what He has done for us.

--Beecher Hunter